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ABSTRACT

Selected characteristics of the United States' farm population for 1973 are presented. The farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of: (1) 10 or more acres if as much as $50 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place in the reporting year and (2) under 10 acres if as much as $250 worth of agricultural products were sold in the year. Farm population estimate for 1973 was only 240,000 less than that of 9.7 million for 1970--an apparent decrease which was not statistically significant. Data are presented by age, sex, employment status, region, and income. The estimates in this report are based on data obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census, the March 1973 CPS on household and family characteristics of farm and nonfarm families, the March 1974 CPS, and the June 1973 CPS. (NQ)

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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Farm Population

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FARM POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES: 1973

In the 12-month period centered on April 1973, an average of 9,472,000 persons lived on farms in rural areas of the United States (table A). This estimate was prepared cooperatively by the Bureau of the Census and the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The apparent decrease of 138,000 in farm population from 1972 to 1973 was not statistically significant. The chances are about one out of four that a decline of this magnitude or greater would have been obtained from the sample without any actual change having occurred in the farm population between 1972 and 1973.

The long-time downward trend in the number of persons on farms (see figure 1), accompanied by steady increases in persons residing in nonfarm areas, has resulted in a continuing decline in the farm share of the U.S. total population. In the slightly more than 50 years since the farm population was first enumerated, the proportion of the national population living on farms has fallen from 30.1 percent in 1920 to 4.5 percent in 1973.

The 1973 estimate of the farm population was only 240,000 less than that of 9.7 million for 1970--an apparent decrease that also was not statistically significant. This marks the first time in recent years that a three-year interval has not resulted in a significant loss in number of farm residents. To find a similar period of relative stability, one would have to go back to the end of World War II in the mid-1940's, when returning veterans and released defense workers temporarily checked farm population decline.

Table A. POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, TOTAL AND FARM: APRIL 1970 TO 1973

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total resident population	Farm population	
		Number of persons[1]	Percent of total population
1973	209,445	9,472	4.5
1972	207,797	9,610	4.6
1971	205,658	9,425	4.6
1970	[2]203,235	9,712	4.8

[1]April-centered annual averages; see "Definitions and Explanations."
[2]Official census count.

This report was prepared jointly by Vera J. Banks, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Robert C. Speaker and Richard L. Forstall, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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Within the farm population, the indicated stability for the 1970-73 period applied only to the white farm population; the number of Negroes and other races on farms continued to decline sharply. Since 1970, the minority races farm population has declined by 254,000, or about one-fourth, an average annual rate of 10.5 percent. The indicated average annual relative loss among Negroes and other races between 1970 and 1973 was at the same rate as observed for the 1960-70 decade, although the average numerical loss was considerably less, reflecting the smaller population base.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM POPULATION

Different rates of population change for the broad age groups--under 14 years and 14 years old and over--were again evidenced in the farm population. Between 1970 and 1973, farm children under 14 years old declined by 336,000, or 13 percent, whereas there was no significant change in the number of farm persons 14 years old and over. This decline in young children reflects the recent national declines in the birth rate, which have extended to farm as well as nonfarm areas. In 1973, 2.2 million, or 23 percent, of the total farm population were children under 14 years of age (table 1). In 1960 young children represented nearly a third of the total farm population (see figure 2).

Although the apparent increase between 1970 and 1973 in the proportion of the farm population 65 years old and over was not statistically significant, it does represent a continuation of a recent trend towards an older age structure. As the proportion of young farm children has declined, the proportion of older farm residents has increased. For the period 1960 to 1973, the percentage of the farm population 65 years old and over rose from 8 to 12 percent. During this same period, no significant change has been evidenced in the proportion of young and middle-aged farm adults--persons 20 to 44 years of age.

The dwindling size and changing age structure of the farm population have not affected continuance of its distinctive feature of having more males than females. In 1973, there were 108 males on farms for every 100 females. By contrast, the sex ratio for the nonfarm civilian noninstitutional population, where females outnumber males, was 92.

In 1973, there were 684,000 Negroes and persons of races other than white living on U.S. farms (table 2). Heavier rates of population loss in these racial groups, as compared with those for whites, have resulted in the minority races comprising an ever smaller percentage of the farm total. Their proportion of all farm residents has fallen from 16 percent in 1960 to 10 percent in 1970, and to 7 percent in 1973. Despite higher rates of population decline, youths continue to comprise a greater proportion of all Negro and other races farm population than they do of the white farm population. In 1973, of all minority races on farms, 29 percent were children under 14 years of age; the comparable proportion for whites was 22 percent. Data on children ever born from the censuses of population indicate a fertility differential in the farm population by race that permits the minority races farm population to maintain this higher percentage of young children. As shown in the 1970 census, the cumulative fertility of farm women at the end of the childbearing period was almost 60 percent higher for Negro and other races than for whites. For women living on farms in 1970, the number of children ever born per 1,000 women aged 35 to 44 who had ever married, was 5,708 for Negro and other minority races and 3,574 for whites.[1]

The feature of more males than females was a characteristic that extended to white farm residents only. Among Negroes and other races in the farm population there was no significant difference in the number of farm males compared to farm females.

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Of the 7.3 million farm residents 14 years old and over, about three-fifths were in the labor force, either working or seeking work (table 3). As in earlier years, persons living on farms in the combined Northern and Western States were more likely to be in the labor force than farm residents of the South. The 1973 labor force participation rate was 63 percent for the farm population of the North and West, as compared with 57 percent in the South. This regional variation in labor force participation is a peculiarity of farm residents. In the nonfarm civilian noninstitutional population 14 years old and over, the overall rate of labor force participation was about 58 percent with no significant variations by region of residence.

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[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary, table 76.

Unemployment remained very low in the farm population. In 1973 the rate of unemployment--the percentage of the labor force currently without a job and looking for work--was 1.9 percent among farm residents; the comparable rate for the civilian noninstitutional population living off farms was 5.3 percent.

The rate of unemployment is typically low among farm residents. This reflects, at least in part, the high incidence of multiple job holding among persons employed in agriculture. In 1973, more than a fifth of all multiple job holders in the country had at least one job in agriculture.[2] Of this group, 70 percent combined a primary job as a nonagricultural wage and salary worker with self-employment in agriculture as a secondary job. Thus, if a farm operator with dual employment loses his nonfarm job, he is still counted as employed on the basis of his farm work.

For the period 1970-73 there was no significant change in the number of farm residents employed in agriculture, but agricultural employment as a percentage of the farm resident labor force continued its long-time downward trend. In 1973, only about one-half of the farm resident labor force was engaged solely or primarily in agricultural pursuits. The decline in agricultural employment of farm people has produced an increase in the proportion employed in nonagricultural industries, but not in the number so employed. About 2.1 million farm residents worked solely or primarily in nonagricultural industries in 1973; about the same number were so employed in 1960. However, this group accounted for only 33 percent of the more numerous farm resident labor force of 1960 compared to 48 percent of the 1973 work force.

Nonagricultural employment in the farm resident labor force was more prevalent among farm females than among farm males. About two-thirds of farm women were employed in nonagricultural industries in 1973; only about 39 percent of farm men were so employed.

In the South, where low-income farms (those with sales of less than $2,500) are most prevalent, farm residents are more likely to have nonfarm jobs as their principal employment than is true of farm residents of the combined Northern and Western States. In 1973, 53 percent of the Southern farm resident labor force were engaged in nonagricultural industries. Among residents on farms outside the South, only 45 percent were so employed (table 3).

Labor force participation was somewhat higher among white farm residents than among Negroes and other races on farms. In 1973, 61 percent of the white farm population 14 years old and over were either working or seeking work (table 4). Among farm resident Negro and other races in this age group, 55 percent were in the labor force. This racial disparity in labor force participation occurred mainly among males, where the rate was 81 percent for whites and 73 percent for Negroes and persons of races other than white. There was no significant difference in female labor force participation by race.

Three-fifths of the farm residents employed in agriculture were self-employed, mainly as farm operators, irrespective of region of residence (table 5). However, there was a regional difference in the distribution of the two remaining classes. In the South, workers who were not self-employed were more likely to be working for wages and salary; in the combined North and West they were more often unpaid family workers. This again is probably a reflection of the higher proportion of low-income farms in the South as compared with the rest of the Nation. Persons living on small-scale, low-income farms are more likely to work for wages as supplemental income rather than as unpaid family help.

There was also a substantial difference in the class-of-worker distribution by sex. Self-employment was the predominant class of work among males, while females were most often unpaid family workers. The difference in class of worker is also apparent by race. Three-fifths of whites were self-employed, a proportion that has remained essentially unchanged since 1960. On the other hand, among Negro and other minority races, the proportion self-employed has declined as wage and salary employment has increased. In 1973, three-fifths of the farm resident Negro and other races employed in agriculture were working for wages and salary; in 1960 about two-fifths were so classified. This decline of self-employment as a class of work is due primarily to the rapid decrease in farms operated by the minority races.

The downward trend in the number of farm residents in agricultural employment has been offset in part by the stability in the number of agricultural workers who are nonfarm residents.

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[2] "Multiple Job Holding, May 1973," Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, December 1973.

In both 1960 and 1973, about 1.4 million nonfarm people were employed in agriculture. During this same period, total agricultural employment fell from 5.4 million to 3.7 million. As a consequence, the proportion of persons working in agriculture but not living on a farm has increased. In 1960, nonfarm residents represented about one-fourth of total agricultural employment; in 1973, they were about 40 percent of the total (table B). This increase has resulted primarily from the growing tendency among farm wage and salary workers, who now comprise about two-thirds of nonfarm residents in agriculture, to commute rather than live directly on the farm. A comparison of tables 5 and C shows that in 1973 about 70 percent of all farm wageworkers lived off the farm. In contrast, both self-employed and unpaid workers in agriculture are more likely to live on the farm.

There were contrasting trends by race in the residence of persons employed in agriculture. White agricultural workers more often lived on farms; Negroes and persons of other minority races were more likely to live off farms.

Table B. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE AND NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES BY FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE AND RACE: APRIL 1973 AND 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Residence	Total		White		Negro and other races		Percent distribution					
							Total		White		Negro and other races	
	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970
Total employed in agriculture	3,729	3,696	3,404	3,313	325	383	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm residents.....	2,249	2,333	2,119	2,158	131	175	60.3	63.1	62.3	65.1	40.3	45.8
Nonfarm residents..	1,480	1,363	1,285	1,155	194	207	39.7	36.9	37.8	34.9	59.7	54.2
Total employed in nonagricultural industries.....	81,487	76,376	72,719	68,163	8,768	8,213	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm residents.....	2,121	1,878	1,999	1,739	123	139	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	1.4	1.7
Nonfarm residents..	79,366	74,497	70,720	66,423	8,646	8,074	97.4	97.5	97.3	97.4	98.6	98.3

Table C. NONFARM RESIDENTS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE, BY CLASS OF WORKER AND SEX: APRIL 1973 AND 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Class of worker	Both sexes		Male		Female		Percent distribution					
							Both sexes		Male		Female	
	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970
Total agricultural workers.	1,480	1,363	1,216	1,143	263	220	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers.....	462	424	420	396	42	28	31.3	31.1	34.6	34.6	16.0	12.7
Wage and salary workers.....	954	872	770	719	184	153	64.5	64.0	63.4	62.9	70.0	69.5
Unpaid family workers.....	62	66	25	27	37	39	4.2	4.8	2.1	2.4	14.1	17.7

About 90 percent of white farm residents employed in nonagricultural industries in 1973 worked for wages or salary irrespective of their sex or region of residence (table 6). These proportions were even higher for Negro and other races.

COMPARISON OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM AND NONFARM POPULATIONS

Table D provides a comparison for 1973 of some key characteristics of the farm and nonfarm populations by race. More than one-sixth of the farm population lives within standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) as these were defined for the 1970 census. Most of these metropolitan farm residents are accounted for by certain SMSA's that comprise large individual counties, in which there is important farming activity as well as a large urban center. One-fifth of the white farm population lives within SMSA's, but this is true of less than one-twelfth of the farm population of Negro and other races.

There are some significant differences in age distribution between the farm and nonfarm populations. The percent of population under 20 and from 35 to 44 years of age is about the same for the two groups. However, the percent of the population in the younger adult years (20 to 34) is much lower for the farm population (15 percent compared with 22 percent). On the other hand, the percent in the age groups above 44 is much higher for the farm population than for the nonfarm population.

About 90 percent of farm families have both husband and wife present, and only about 5 percent have a female head, as compared with 13 percent of nonfarm families. Families with female heads are more than twice as prevalent among families headed by persons of Negro and other races than among those with white family heads. Seventeen percent of the Negro or other race farm families have female heads, as compared with about 4 percent of white farm families.

Farm and nonfarm families do not differ significantly in average size. However, relatively large families (those with six or more persons) comprise a larger percent of farm families (13 percent) than of nonfarm families (11 percent). As many as 36 percent of the farm families of Negro and other races have six or more persons, compared with 19 percent of the comparable nonfarm families.

The larger size of farm families is not the result of a larger number of children, however. There is some evidence that the number of own children per family is smaller for the farm population than for the nonfarm population. The percent of farm families with members under 18 years of age and 18 to 64 years of age is lower than for nonfarm families, but the percent having members 65 years of age and over is much higher.

The fertility of farm women is higher than that of nonfarm women. The differential in favor of higher farm fertility is greatest among the younger women, those aged 25 to 34 in 1973. Farm women ever married in this group have had a total of 2,632 births per 1,000 women, while the nonfarm women in the same age group have averaged 2,103 births per 1,000. Among older farm women, aged 35 to 44, the average of 3,418 children ever born is not significantly higher than the average of 3,157 per 1,000 for nonfarm women.[3]

Data on birth expectations are available for a group of married women aged 14 to 39 in 1973. The farm women in this group expected to have 3,024 births per 1,000 women, or about 15 percent more than the corresponding group of nonfarm women. This group of farm women had already had 2,575 births per 1,000, compared with 2,012 for the nonfarm women.

The contrast between farm and nonfarm population is especially striking with regard to income. The median family income of the farm population was $10,045 in 1973, compared with $12,151 for nonfarm families. About 15 percent of farm families had incomes of less than $4,000, compared with 10 percent of nonfarm families. However, the rise since 1970 in median family income (measured in 1973 dollars) has been much more rapid among farm families, amounting to about 30 percent, compared to an increase of about 6 percent for nonfarm families in the same period. In 1970 the median income of farm families was about $3,700 less than that of nonfarm families; by 1973 the differential had been reduced to about $2,100.

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[3]For the comparable group of ever married farm women of all races aged 35 to 44 in 1970, the average number of children ever born was 3,671, which is not significantly higher than the 1973 figure. As mentioned earlier, the average was 3,574 for white farm women and 5,708 for farm women of Negro and other races. Separate data for the latter group are not available for 1973.

Table D. SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM AND NONFARM POPULATIONS, BY RACE: 1973

Characteristic	Total			White			Negro and other races		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
PERSONS[1]									
Total.....thousands..	205,451	9,472	195,979	179,574	8,788	170,786	25,877	684	25,193
Metropolitan.....thousands..	140,415	1,745	138,670	120,631	1,691	118,940	19,784	54	19,730
Percent.....	68.3	18.4	70.8	67.2	19.2	69.6	76.5	7.9	78.3
Nonmetropolitan.....thousands..	65,036	7,727	57,309	58,943	7,097	51,846	6,093	630	5,463
Percent.....	31.7	81.6	29.2	32.8	80.8	30.4	23.5	92.1	21.7
All ages.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years.....	25.2	22.7	25.3	24.3	22.3	24.4	31.6	28.7	31.7
14 to 19 years.....	11.7	13.7	11.6	11.4	13.4	11.3	13.4	18.1	13.2
20 to 34 years.....	21.8	14.5	22.2	21.9	14.5	22.2	21.6	15.6	21.8
35 to 44 years.....	10.8	10.5	10.8	10.9	10.7	10.9	10.3	8.5	10.4
45 to 64 years.....	20.7	26.4	20.4	21.3	26.9	21.0	16.2	18.9	16.1
65 years and over.....	9.8	12.1	9.7	10.2	12.2	10.1	6.9	10.4	6.8
FAMILIES[2]									
Total families.....thousands..	54,373	2,513	51,860	48,477	2,384	46,093	5,896	129	5,767
Metropolitan.....thousands..	36,941	487	36,453	32,303	470	31,833	4,638	17	4,620
Percent.....	67.9	19.4	70.3	66.6	19.7	69.1	78.7	13.2	80.1
Nonmetropolitan.....thousands..	17,433	2,026	15,407	16,174	1,914	14,260	1,259	112	1,147
Percent.....	32.1	80.6	29.7	33.4	80.3	30.9	21.4	86.8	19.9
All types.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband-wife.....	85.2	92.0	84.8	87.8	92.8	87.6	63.2	78.3	62.9
Other male head.....	2.7	3.4	2.6	2.5	3.3	2.5	4.0	4.7	4.0
Female head.....	12.2	4.6	12.5	9.6	3.9	9.9	32.8	17.1	33.2
All sizes.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2 persons.....	36.7	39.1	36.5	37.3	39.8	37.2	31.3	25.6	31.4
3 to 5 persons.....	52.5	47.8	52.7	52.9	48.3	53.1	49.3	39.5	49.5
6 or more persons.....	10.9	13.1	10.8	9.8	11.8	9.7	19.4	35.7	19.1
Mean size of family.....	3.48	3.55	3.48	3.42	3.49	3.41	4.00	4.60	3.98
Mean number of own children--									
Under 18 years.....	1.18	1.10	1.19	1.14	1.09	1.14	1.54	1.41	1.54
Under 6 years.....	0.35	0.25	0.36	0.34	0.24	0.34	0.46	0.40	0.46
Under 3 years.....	0.17	0.11	0.18	0.17	0.10	0.17	0.23	0.22	0.23
Percent of families with members--									
Under 18 years.....	56.9	50.2	57.2	55.4	49.3	55.7	68.8	66.7	68.8
18 to 64 years.....	92.8	89.9	93.0	92.5	89.8	92.6	95.9	93.8	95.9
65 years and over.....	17.4	23.8	17.1	17.7	23.3	17.4	15.4	31.8	15.0
FERTILITY[3]									
Children ever born per 1,000 women ever married--									
15 to 24 years.....	904	1,048	901	854	1,032	850	1,300	(B)	1,301
25 to 34 years.....	2,118	2,632	2,103	2,058	2,554	2,042	2,574	(B)	2,552
35 to 44 years.....	3,189	3,418	3,157	3,105	3,380	3,090	3,609	(B)	3,599
Married women, 14 to 39 years old:[4]									
Births to date per 1,000 women.....	2,031	2,575	2,012	1,995	2,515	1,976	2,380	(B)	2,355
Lifetime births expected per 1,000 women.....	2,635	3,024	2,622	2,604	2,972	2,591	2,934	(B)	2,914
FAMILY INCOME[5]									
Total families.....thousands..	55,053	2,542	52,511	48,919	2,397	46,523	6,134	145	5,988
Families by 1973 income.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $4,000 or loss.....	10.2	14.8	9.9	8.4	13.2	8.2	23.9	41.4	23.4
$4,000 to $9,999.....	28.9	34.9	28.6	27.6	34.7	27.2	39.2	37.9	39.2
$10,000 to $14,999.....	25.5	22.0	25.7	26.3	22.7	26.5	19.1	9.0	19.4
$15,000 and over.....	35.4	28.3	35.8	37.6	29.3	38.1	17.8	11.0	18.0
Median family income (1973 dollars):									
1973.....	$12,051	$10,045	$12,151	$12,595	$10,377	$12,706	$7,596	$4,570	$7,678
1972.....	11,813	9,404	11,929	12,273	9,679	12,406	7,552	4,537	7,622
1971.....	11,290	7,895	11,451	11,715	8,134	11,889	7,370	4,064	7,475
1970.....	11,289	7,749	11,449	11,712	8,027	11,886	7,455	3,530	7,584
Families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Below low-income level.....	8.8	11.6	8.6	6.6	9.8	6.4	26.2	41.4	25.9
Above low-income level.....	91.2	88.4	91.4	93.4	90.2	93.6	73.8	58.6	74.1

B Base less than 75,000.

[1] Data are April-centered annual averages for 1973 (see "Definitions and Explanations"). See tables E, G, and H for standard errors.

[2] Data from March 1973 Current Population Survey. See Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 258, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1973." See tables F, I, and J for standard errors.

[3] Data from June 1973 Current Population Survey. See Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 265, "Fertility Expectations of American Women: June 1973." See table L for bases and table K for standard errors.

[4] Data limited to currently married women reporting on birth expectations. See table L for bases and table K for standard errors.

[5] Data relate to income in 1973, from March 1974 Current Population Survey. See Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 93, "Money Income in 1973 of Families and Persons in the United States", and Series P-60, No. 94, "Characteristics of the Low-Income Population: 1973." See table M for standard errors of median incomes.

The farm-nonfarm income contrast is particularly sharp among Negro and other races, whose median farm family income was only $4,570, compared with $7,678 for comparable nonfarm families. The median income of farm families with heads of Negro or other races was also in sharp contrast with that of white farm families ($10,377), being about half as great.

The percent of farm families below the low-income level is approximately one-third higher than for nonfarm families. The proportion of farm families of Negro and other races below the low-income level is about four times higher than that of white farm families.

RELATED REPORTS

Comparable figures for 1972 appear in Farm Population, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 44, and earlier reports were published annually beginning in 1961.

Beginning with 1972, the data are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of adjustments in sample design and survey procedures occasioned by 1970 census data. However, the effect on comparability with prior data is not considered sufficient to warrant revisions of earlier statistics. Application of 1972 procedures to data for March 1970 lowered the farm population 14 years old and over by about 75,000.

Although not fully comparable with CPS, farm population figures for 1970 for the United States, States, and counties appear in chapter C of 1970 Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population; characteristics of the farm population by States are presented in chapter D.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage. With the exception of the total population shown in table A, all figures in this report relate to the civilian noninstitutional population. The total population shown in table D (205,451,000) differs from the estimated April 1, 1973 total civilian population (207,659,000) chiefly in excluding the institutional population, but also because the five-quarter average centered on April 1973 was slightly lower than the estimated noninstitutional total for that month. For the Current Population Survey, both the institutional and military components of the population are regarded as entirely nonfarm.

Farm population. In the Current Population Survey, as in the 1960 and 1970 Censuses of Population, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of 10 or more acres if as much as $50 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place in the reporting year (for the CPS, the preceding 12 months). It also includes those living on places of under 10 acres if as much as $250 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place in the reporting year. Persons in institutions, summer camps, motels, and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming, are classified as nonfarm.

Since April 1960 farm residence has been determined in the Current Population Survey by the responses to two questions. Owners are asked, "Does this place have 10 or more acres?" and renters are asked, "Does the place you rent have 10 or more acres?" If the response is "Yes," the respondent is asked, "During the past 12 months, did sales of crops, livestock, and other farm products from this place amount to $50 or more?" If the acreage response is "No," the inquiry relates to sales of $250 or more.

Farms located within the boundaries of urban territory, comprising a small minority of all farms, are not treated as farms for population census purposes, and their population is not included in the farm population. Urban territory includes all places with a population of 2,500 or more and the densely settled urbanized fringe areas around cities of 50,000 or more. Beginning with the 1972 estimate, the estimated farm population is limited to the rural territory as determined in the 1970 Census of Population. In the Current Population Surveys of 1963 through 1971, the urban-rural boundaries used were those of the 1960 Census of Population and did not take into account the annexations and other substantial expansions of urban territory that were incorporated into the 1970 Census of Population. The net effect was to classify an unknown number of persons as rural farm in the Current Population Surveys of 1970 and 1971 who were treated as urban (and hence nonfarm) in the 1970 census as well as in the Current Population Surveys beginning in 1972.

Under CPS procedures a place is classified by farm or nonfarm residence at the time the household enters the sample. Prior to April 1963, this initial classification was retained in most cases, without re-examination, for the entire 16-month period in which a household remains

in the sample. (A household is in the panel for 4 months, drops out for 8 months, and then is reinstated for 4 months.) In view of the continued decline in the farm population, it is likely that some places which qualified as farms on entrance no longer met the criteria toward the end of the 16-month period. Since April 1963 the questions concerning farm residence have been re-asked of all households as they are reinstated in the sample a year after their first interview. The precise effect of the procedure has not been measured. It is not thought to be great, but the direction of change is almost certainly toward a lowering of the 1963 and following farm population estimates in comparison with what the former procedure would have yielded.

In the Current Population Survey, unmarried persons attending college away from home are enumerated as residents of their parents' homes, whereas in the Census of Population such persons are enumerated as residents of the communities in which they live while attending college. The effect of this difference is to classify a larger number of college-age persons as farm residents in the Current Population Survey than would be so classified under decennial census usage.

Nonfarm population. The nonfarm population comprises all persons living in urban areas and all rural persons not on farms.

April-centered annual averages. April-centered annual averages of the farm population for the years 1970 through 1973 were computed by using data for the five quarters centered on the April date for which the estimate was being prepared.[4] One reason for the choice of April as the date of the annual population survey is that this is the decennial census month. April-centered annual averages for persons under 14 years by race and sex, and for persons 14 years old and over, by race, sex, age, labor force characteristics, and region were computed for 1973 by using data for the specified characteristics for the five quarters centered on April 1973.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1970 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes. For the 1970 census, except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties.

Geographic regions. The major regions of the United States for which data are presented represent groups of States, as follows:

North and West: Northeast, North Central, and West regions combined.

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro. In this report, "other races" are shown in combination with the Negro population.

Family. The term "family," as used in this report, refers to a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of the same family. Thus, if the son of the head of the household and the son's wife are in the household, they are treated as part of the head's family. On the other hand, a lodger and his wife not related to the head of the household or an unrelated servant and his wife are considered as additional families, and not a part of the household head's family.

[4] For example, for April 1973, quarterly estimates for the months of October 1972, and January, April, July, and October 1973, were used with a weight of one-eighth each given to the two October estimates and a weight of one-fourth to the estimates for each of the other 3 months.

The mean size of family is derived by dividing the number of persons in families by the total number of families. In the classification of families by number of family members, the head of the family and all other persons in the family are included. The number of family members is the same as size of family.

Head of family. One person in each family was designated as the head. The head of a family is usually the person regarded as the head by members of the family. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are resident members of the family at the time of the survey. Married couples related to the head of a family are included in the head's family and are not classified as separate families.

Type of family. The classification of families by type is based on the sex and marital status of head. Families with a head and wife present are termed "husband-wife" families. Families in which the spouse of the head is not present are families with "other male head" or "female head" depending on the sex of the head.

Own children. "Own" children in a family are single (never married) sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children, of the family head. The mean number of own children is derived by dividing the number of children of a specified age in families by the total number of families.

Marital status. Data refer to present marital status. The primary categories of marital status are single (never married) and ever married. The following subcategories of ever married may be distinguished: (1) married, spouse present; (2) married, spouse absent (excluding separated); (3) separated; (4) widowed; or (5) divorced.

Lifetime birth expectations. Lifetime births expected are determined by adding any additional births a woman expects to the children she has already borne, if any. Questions regarding expected additional births were asked in June 1973 of women 14 to 39 years old who were currently married (spouse present or spouse absent excluding separated).

Births to date. In table D, in the data on birth expectations of wives, the number of "births to date" has the same meaning as the number of children ever born.

Children ever born. The term "children ever born" refers to the total number of live births reported by ever married women. Included in the number are children born to the woman before her present marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home, as well as children born to the woman who were still living in the home.

Labor force and employment status. The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Labor force. Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force. All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work; seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season;

and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Agriculture. The industry category "agriculture" is somewhat more inclusive than the total of the two major occupation groups, "farmers and farm managers" and "farm laborers and foremen." It also includes (1) persons employed on farms in occupations such as truck driver, mechanic, and bookkeeper, and (2) persons engaged in activities other than strictly farm operation such as cotton ginning, contract farm services, veterinary and breeding services, hatcheries, experimental stations, greenhouses, landscape gardening, tree service, trapping, hunting preserves, and kennels.

Nonagricultural industries. This category includes all industries not specifically classed under agriculture.

Multiple jobs. Persons with two or more jobs during the survey week were classified as employed in the industry in which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. Consequently, some of the persons shown in this report as engaged in nonagricultural activities also engaged in agriculture and vice versa.

Class of worker

Self-employed workers. Persons who worked for profit or fees in their own business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm either as an owner or tenant.

Wage and salary workers. Persons who worked for any governmental unit or private employer for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay "in kind," or at piece rates.

Unpaid family workers. Persons who worked without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a person to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

Income. Total money income is the algebraic sum of the amounts received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources: (1) Money wages or salary; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security or railroad retirement; (5) dividends, interest (on savings or bonds), income from estates or trusts, or net rental income; (6) public assistance or welfare payments; (7) unemployment and workmen's compensation, government employee pensions, or veterans' payments; (8) private pensions, annuities, alimony, regular contributions from persons not living in this household, and other periodic income.

Receipts from the following sources are not included as income: (1) Money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car (unless the person was engaged in the business of selling such property, in which case the net proceeds would be counted as income from self-employment); (2) withdrawals of bank deposits; (3) money borrowed; (4) tax refunds; (5) gifts; and (6) lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

Family income. The total income of a family is the algebraic sum of the amounts received by all income recipients in the family.

In the income distribution for families, the lowest income group (less than $4,000) includes those families who were classified as having no income in the income year and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income. Many of these were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts; or were newly constituted families, or families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or had left the household. However, many of the families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the survey.

It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding year, the composition of families refers to the time of the survey. The income of the family does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. On the other hand, family income includes amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during the income year but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration.

The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median. The medians for families are based on all families.

Low-income (poverty) definition. Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the low-income level using the poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. This index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 Economy Food Plan

and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition, sex and age of the family head, and farm-nonfarm residence. In order to keep the poverty index constant over time, the thresholds are updated annually based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The low-income threshold for a nonfarm family of four was $4,540 in 1973, $4,275 in 1972, and $2,973 in 1959. Corresponding low-income thresholds for a farm family of four were $3,871 in 1973, $3,643 in 1972, and $2,539 in 1959.

In analyzing data on the low-income population, the following limitations should be noted. The low-income concept has been developed in order to identify, in dollar terms, a minimum level of income adequacy for families of different types in keeping with American consumption patterns. Based on an analysis of the percent of income devoted to food expenditures, an estimate was developed of the minimum cost at which an American family, making average choices, can be provided with a diet meeting recommended nutritional goals. Consequently, it is an overall statistical yardstick which reflects the different consumption requirements of families of different size, taking into account family composition and farm-nonfarm residence. Insofar as individual circumstances or consumption patterns differ, the dollar value of the low-income threshold for a given family size may not represent the money income required by an individual family to maintain a level of economic well-being equivalent to other families with similar incomes.

Rounding. The individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest thousand. With few exceptions, the individual figures in this report have not been adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. The estimates in this report are based on data obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census. The figures in tables A, B, and C, tables 1-6, and part of table D are based on April-centered annual averages. (See "Definitions and Explanations.") Table D also contains (1) data from the March 1973 CPS on household and family characteristics of farm and nonfarm families, (2) data on income and low-income status for the year 1973 obtained from the March 1974 CPS, and (3) data on fertility and birth expectations obtained from the June 1973 CPS.

The present Current Population Survey sample is spread over 461 areas comprising 923 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 47,000 occupied housing units are eligible for interview each month. Of this number, 2,000 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 47,000 eligible occupied units, there are also about 8,000 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

In 1970, the sample was spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 47,000 occupied households were eligible for interview each month.

The data collected in 1960 in the CPS were based on a sample spread over 333 areas comprising 638 counties and independent cities, with coverage in the then 48 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 occupied households were eligible for interview each month.

The estimation procedure used in the CPS involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. The independent estimates for 1973 and 1974 were based on statistics from the 1970 Census of Population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. The independent estimates for years prior to 1972 were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population.

Reliability of the estimates. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from figures obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

All statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. Most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. Thus, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

The figures presented in tables E and F are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. Tables G through J contain the standard errors of estimated percentages.

Table E. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF PERSONS: APRIL-CENTERED ANNUAL AVERAGES

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error of estimate	
	Farm	Total or nonfarm
25,000	5,000	4,100
50,000	7,200	5,900
100,000	10,200	8,300
250,000	16,200	13,100
500,000	23,000	18,500
1,000,000	34,000	26,100
2,500,000	58,000	41,000
5,000,000	92,000	57,400
10,000,000	154,000	79,500
15,000,000	214,000	95,300
25,000,000	-	117,400
50,000,000	-	144,600
100,000,000	-	123,000

- Represents zero.

Note: For estimated numbers of persons for one month's data, multiply the above standard errors by 1.4.

Table F. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF FAMILIES: MARCH 1973 AND 1974

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error of estimate			
	Household and family characteristics		Income or low-income characteristics	
	Farm	Nonfarm	Farm	Nonfarm
20,000	7,600	5,200	6,400	4,400
30,000	9,300	6,400	7,900	5,400
50,000	12,000	8,200	10,000	6,900
100,000	18,000	12,000	15,000	10,000
250,000	26,000	18,000	23,000	16,000
500,000	38,000	26,000	32,000	22,000
1,000,000	53,000	36,000	45,000	31,000
2,500,000	83,000	57,000	70,000	48,000
5,000,000	115,000	79,000	96,000	66,000
10,000,000	156,000	107,000	130,000	89,000
25,000,000	-	147,000	-	123,000
50,000,000	-	139,000	-	117,000

- Represents zero.

Table E shows standard errors of estimated numbers of persons for April-centered annual averages for farm and total or nonfarm population. Table F shows standard errors of estimated numbers of families for March 1973 and 1974 data for farm and nonfarm population. Tables G and H contain the standard errors of estimated percentages for April-centered annual averages for farm and total or nonfarm population, respectively. Tables I and J contain the standard errors of estimated percentages of farm and nonfarm families for household and family characteristics and income and low-income characteristics which appear in table D. Table K contains standard errors for the fertility statistics in table D--children ever born and lifetime births expected. Table M gives the standard errors for the median family income figures shown in table D.

Table G. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF PERSONS: FARM POPULATION—APRIL-CENTERED ANNUAL AVERAGES

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)									
	25	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	15,000
1 or 99.....	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.14	0.10	0.08
2 or 98.....	2.8	2.0	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.14	0.12
5 or 95.....	4.4	3.1	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
10 or 90.....	6.1	4.3	3.0	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
25 or 75.....	8.8	6.2	4.4	2.8	2.0	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.4
50.....	10.1	7.2	5.1	3.2	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4

Note: For estimated percentages of persons for one month's data, multiply the above standard errors by 1.4.

Table H. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF PERSONS: TOTAL OR NONFARM POPULATION—APRIL-CENTERED ANNUAL AVERAGES

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)										
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
1 or 99.....	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.03
2 or 98.....	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.04
5 or 95.....	2.6	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.08	0.06
10 or 90.....	3.5	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.07
25 or 75.....	5.1	3.6	2.3	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
50.....	5.9	4.1	2.6	1.9	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1

Note: For estimated percentages of persons for one month's data, multiply the above standard errors by 1.4.

Table I. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF FARM FAMILIES: MARCH 1973 AND 1974 (HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS)

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)									
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000
1 or 99.....	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.10	0.07
2 or 98.....	3.2	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.14	0.10
5 or 95.....	4.9	3.5	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
10 or 90.....	6.8	4.8	3.0	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
15 or 85.....	8.1	5.7	3.6	2.6	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3
20 or 80.....	9.1	6.4	4.1	2.9	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3
25 or 75.....	9.8	6.9	4.4	3.1	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3
35 or 65.....	10.8	7.6	4.8	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.3
50.....	11.3	8.0	5.1	3.6	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4

Note: For standard errors of percentages of families in a particular income or low-income category, multiply the above standard errors by 0.84.

Table J. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF NONFARM FAMILIES: MARCH 1973 AND 1974 (HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS)

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)									
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000
1 or 99.....	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.12	0.07	0.05
2 or 98.....	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.20	0.10	0.07
5 or 95.....	3.6	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.30	0.2	0.11
10 or 90.....	4.9	3.5	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.30	0.2	0.2
15 or 85.....	5.9	4.1	2.6	1.9	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.40	0.3	0.2
20 or 80.....	6.6	4.6	2.9	2.1	1.5	0.9	0.7	0.50	0.3	0.2
25 or 75.....	7.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.50	0.3	0.2
35 or 65.....	7.8	5.5	3.5	2.5	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.60	0.3	0.2
50.....	8.2	5.8	3.7	2.6	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.60	0.4	0.3

Note: For standard errors of percentages of families in a particular income or low-income category, multiply the above standard errors by 0.84.

Table K. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED FERTILITY RATES: JUNE 1973

(68 chances out of 100)

Number of women	Children ever born per 1,000 women							
	500	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000
250,000.....	51	93	129	164	198	234	274	315
500,000.....	36	66	92	116	140	166	194	222
750,000.....	30	54	74	95	114	135	158	181
1,000,000.....	26	47	65	82	99	117	137	158
2,000,000.....	18	33	45	58	70	83	97	112
5,000,000.....	11	20	29	37	44	52	61	70
10,000,000.....	9	15	20	26	31	38	44	50
15,000,000.....	7	12	16	21	26	29	35	41
20,000,000.....	6	11	15	19	23	27	31	35
25,000,000.....	5	9	12	16	20	24	28	32

Table L. NUMBER OF EVER MARRIED WOMEN AND NUMBER OF CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN REPORTING BIRTH EXPECTATIONS, BY AGE, RACE, AND FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE: JUNE 1973

(Numbers in thousands)

Women by age	Total			White			Negro and other races		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
WOMEN EVER MARRIED									
Total, 15 to 44 years old..	30,667	1,037	29,630	27,009	983	26,024	3,658	54	3,606
15 to 24 years old.....	6,862	168	6,694	6,095	156	5,939	767	12	755
25 to 34 years old.....	12,837	359	12,478	11,336	343	10,991	1,501	16	1,487
35 to 44 years old.....	10,968	510	10,458	9,578	484	9,094	1,390	26	1,364
WOMEN CURRENTLY MARRIED									
14 to 39 years old, reporting birth expectations.....	18,658	630	18,028	16,916	604	16,311	1,742	26	1,717

Table M. STANDARD ERRORS OF 1970-1973 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOMES (1973 DOLLARS)

(68 chances out of 100)

Year	Total			White			Negro and other races		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
1970.....	$38	$141	$40	$40	$161	$41	$109	$277	$110
1971.....	38	149	38	38	147	41	104	389	104
1972.....	40	189	40	41	185	43	105	408	105
1973.....	42	207	44	45	195	44	100	328	101

Note when using small estimates. Percentage distributions are shown in this report only when the base of the percentage is 75,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that percentages would reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. Estimated totals are shown, however, even though the relative standard errors of these totals are larger than those for the corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to permit such combinations of the categories as serve each user's needs.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table 2 of this report shows that in 1973 there were 4,912,000 males on rural farms. Table E shows that the standard error of an April-centered annual estimate of this size is approximately 91,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 91,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 182,000, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 4,730,000 to 5,094,000.

Of these 4,912,000 males, 337,000 or 7.2 percent, were Negro and other races. Table G shows the standard error of 7.2 percent on a base of 4,912,000 to be approximately 0.4 percentage points. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 7.2 percent would be within 0.4 percentage points of a complete census figure, and the chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 0.8 percentage points of a complete census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 6.4 to 8.0 percent.

Differences. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of each estimate considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristics in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate the true standard error. The standard error of a year-to-year difference in the total farm population is only about 150,000, due to the high positive correlation between total farm population estimates for successive years.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference. Table 2 of this report shows that in 1973 there were 4,560,000 females on rural farms. Thus, the apparent difference between the females on rural farms and males on rural farms is 352,000. The standard error of 4,912,000 males on rural farms in 1973 is 91,000 as shown above. Table E shows that the standard error of an April-centered annual estimate of 4,560,000 is approximately 86,000. The standard error of the estimated difference of 352,000 is about $125{,}000 = \sqrt{91{,}000^2 + 86{,}000^2}$. This means the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated difference based on the samples would differ from the difference derived using complete census figures by less than 125,000. The 68 percent confidence interval around the 352,000 difference is from 227,000 to 477,000, i.e., $352{,}000 \pm 125{,}000$. A conclusion that the average estimate of the difference derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. The 95 percent confidence interval is 102,000 to 602,000, and thus we can conclude with 95 percent confidence that the number of males on rural farms in 1973 is actually greater than the number of females on rural farms in 1973.

Computation of the standard error of a ratio. The standard error of a ratio where the numerator and denominator are both sample estimates but the numerator is not a subset of the denominator cannot be read directly from any of the standard error tables. However, it is possible to approximate the standard error of certain ratios where

the denominator, y, represents a count of families or households of a certain class and the numerator, x, represents a count of persons with a characteristic who are members of these families or households.

Example: The number of persons having the characteristic in a given household may be 0, 1, 2, 3, or more; as, for example, the average number of own children under 18 per family or the average number of persons aged 65 and over per family. For ratios of this kind, the standard error is approximated by the following formula:

$$\sigma_{(x/y)} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_y}{y}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{\sigma_x}{x}\right)^2\right]}$$

In this case, the standard error of the estimated number of families or households, σ_y, should be calculated from table F, and the standard error of the estimated number of persons with the characteristic, σ_x, should be obtained from table E. The appropriate table E entry should be multiplied by 1.4 since the estimate of the number of persons comes from March CPS.

Computation of standard errors of fertility rates. Table D shows that in 1973 there were 2,632 children ever born per 1,000 ever married farm women aged 25 to 34. Table L shows that there were about 359,000 women in this group. Table K shows the standard error of a rate of 2,632 children on a base of 359,000 women to be approximately 181. Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a fertility rate differing from a complete census figure by less than 181. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a fertility rate differing from a complete census figure by less than 362 (twice the standard error); i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be between 2,270 and 2,994 children ever born per 1,000 ever married farm women aged 25 to 34.

Figure 1 - FARM POPULATION 1960-73

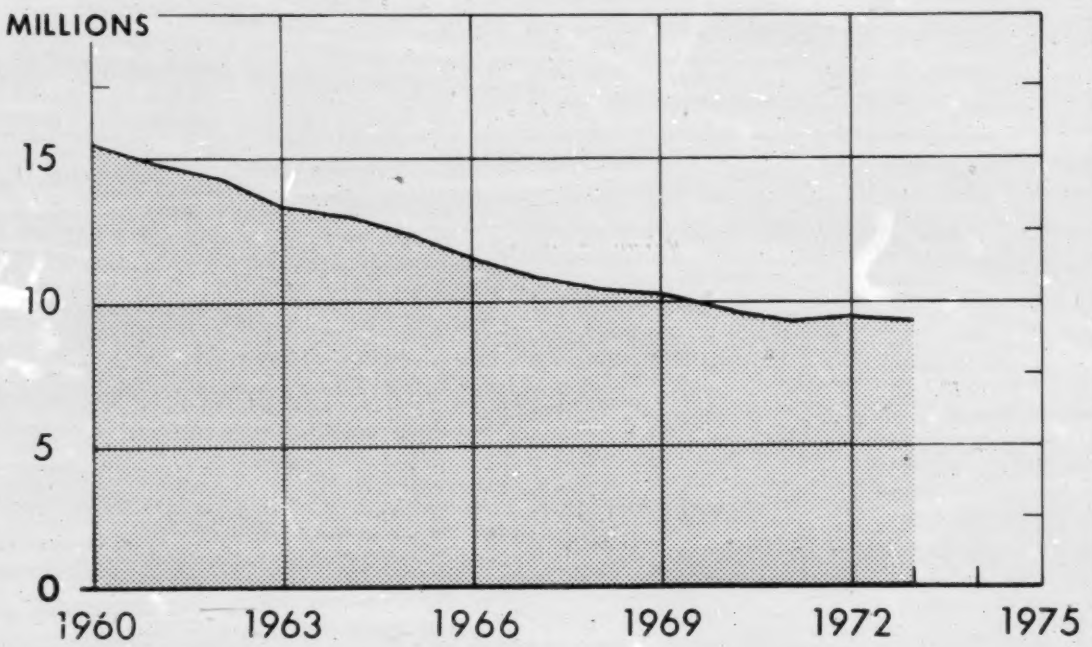
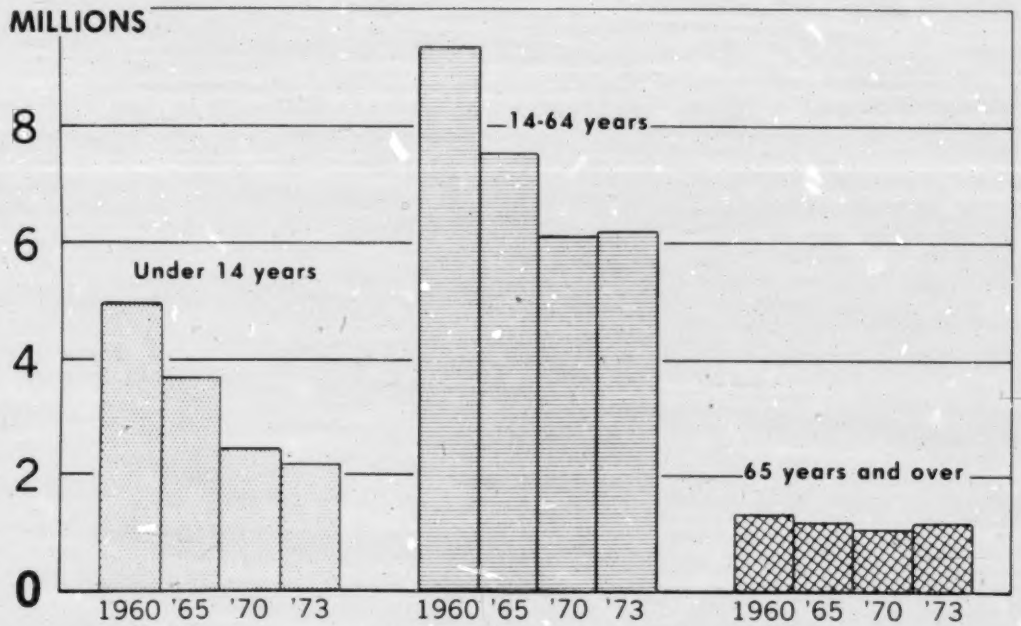


Figure 2 - FARM POPULATION BY AGE FOR SELECTED YEARS, 1960-73



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. ERS 658-74(6) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Table 1. FARM POPULATION, BY AGE AND SEX: APRIL 1973 AND 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Age	Both sexes		Male		Female		Percent distribution					
							Both sexes		Male		Female	
	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970
All ages	9,472	9,712	4,912	5,004	4,560	4,708	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 14 years	2,154	2,490	1,123	1,274	1,030	1,216	22.7	25.6	22.9	25.5	22.6	25.8
14 years and over	7,318	7,222	3,789	3,730	3,530	3,492	77.3	74.4	77.1	74.5	77.4	74.2
14 to 19 years	1,301	1,316	706	714	596	602	13.7	13.6	14.4	14.3	13.1	12.8
20 to 24 years	571	502	321	269	250	232	6.0	5.2	6.5	5.4	5.5	4.9
25 to 34 years	806	770	404	371	402	399	8.5	7.9	8.2	7.4	8.8	8.5
35 to 44 years	997	1,061	479	518	517	543	10.5	10.9	9.8	10.4	11.3	11.5
45 to 54 years	1,286	1,250	648	618	639	631	13.6	12.9	13.2	12.4	14.0	13.4
55 to 64 years	1,211	1,202	630	641	581	561	12.8	12.4	12.8	12.8	12.7	11.9
65 years and over	1,146	1,122	601	599	545	523	12.1	11.6	12.2	12.0	12.0	11.1

Table 2. FARM POPULATION, BY RACE AND SEX, FOR BROAD AGE GROUPS: APRIL 1973 AND 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Age and race	Both sexes		Male		Female		Percent distribution					
							Both sexes		Male		Female	
	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970	1973	1970
Total	9,472	9,712	4,912	5,004	4,560	4,708	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	8,788	8,775	4,575	4,524	4,213	4,251	92.8	90.4	93.1	90.4	92.4	90.3
Negro and other races	684	938	337	480	347	458	7.2	9.7	6.9	9.6	7.6	9.7
Under 14 years	2,154	2,490	1,123	1,274	1,030	1,216	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	1,957	2,152	1,024	1,101	933	1,051	90.9	86.4	91.2	86.4	90.6	86.4
Negro and other races	196	338	99	173	97	165	9.1	13.6	8.8	13.6	9.4	13.6
14 years and over	7,318	7,222	3,789	3,730	3,530	3,492	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	6,831	6,623	3,551	3,423	3,280	3,200	93.3	91.7	93.7	91.8	92.9	91.6
Negro and other races	488	600	238	307	250	293	6.7	8.3	6.3	8.2	7.1	8.4

Table 3. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE FARM POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY SEX, APRIL 1973 AND 1970, BY REGIONS, APRIL 1973

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Labor force status and sex	Total		North and West	South	Percent distribution			
					Total		North and West	South
	1973	1970	1973	1973	1973	1970	1973	1973
Both sexes	7,318	7,222	4,553	2,765	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force	4,454	4,293	2,878	1,577	60.9	59.4	63.2	57.0
Not in labor force	2,864	2,929	1,676	1,188	39.1	40.6	36.8	43.0
Labor force	4,454	4,293	2,878	1,577	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,371	4,211	2,830	1,541	98.1	98.1	98.3	97.7
Agriculture	2,249	2,333	1,537	712	50.5	54.3	53.4	45.1
Nonagricultural industries	2,121	1,878	1,292	829	47.6	43.7	44.9	52.6
Unemployed	84	82	48	36	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.3
Male	3,789	3,730	2,388	1,401	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force	3,038	2,974	1,962	1,076	80.2	79.7	82.2	76.7
Not in labor force	751	756	425	326	19.8	20.3	17.8	23.3
Labor force	3,038	2,974	1,962	1,076	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	2,993	2,932	1,937	1,056	98.5	98.6	98.8	98.1
Agriculture	1,821	1,902	1,228	593	59.9	64.0	62.6	55.1
Nonagricultural industries	1,172	1,030	708	464	38.6	34.6	36.1	43.1
Unemployed	45	42	25	20	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.9
Female	3,530	3,492	2,166	1,364	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force	1,417	1,319	915	502	40.1	37.8	42.2	36.8
Not in labor force	2,113	2,173	1,251	862	59.9	62.2	57.8	63.2
Labor force	1,417	1,319	915	502	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	1,378	1,279	893	485	97.2	97.0	97.6	96.6
Agriculture	428	431	308	120	30.2	32.7	33.7	23.9
Nonagricultural industries	950	849	584	366	67.0	64.4	63.8	72.9
Unemployed	39	40	23	16	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.2

Table 4. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE FARM POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY RACE AND SEX, FOR REGIONS: APRIL 1973

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Labor force status, race, and sex	Total	North and West	South	Percent distribution		
				Total	North and West	South
WHITE						
Both sexes	6,831	4,514	2,317	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force	4,189	2,851	1,336	61.3	63.2	57.7
Not in labor force	2,643	1,662	981	38.7	36.8	42.3
Labor force	4,189	2,851	1,336	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,117	2,804	1,313	98.3	98.3	98.3
Agriculture	2,119	1,528	591	50.6	53.6	44.2
Nonagricultural industries	1,999	1,278	721	47.7	44.8	54.0
Unemployed	71	47	24	1.7	1.6	1.8
Male	3,551	2,367	1,184	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force	2,862	1,946	916	80.6	82.2	77.4
Not in labor force	688	421	267	19.4	17.8	22.6
Labor force	2,862	1,946	916	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	2,825	1,922	903	98.7	98.8	98.6
Agriculture	1,715	1,220	495	59.9	62.7	54.0
Nonagricultural industries	1,110	702	408	38.8	36.1	44.5
Unemployed	37	24	13	1.3	1.2	1.4
Female	3,280	2,147	1,133	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force	1,325	905	420	40.4	42.2	37.0
Not in labor force	1,954	1,240	714	59.6	57.8	63.0
Labor force	1,325	905	420	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	1,292	883	409	97.5	97.6	97.4
Agriculture	404	308	96	30.5	34.0	22.9
Nonagricultural industries	888	575	313	67.0	63.5	74.5
Unemployed	33	22	11	2.5	2.4	2.6
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES						
Both sexes	488	40	448	100.0	(B)	100.0
Labor force	267	26	241	54.7	(B)	53.8
Not in labor force	221	14	207	45.3	(B)	46.2
Labor force	267	26	241	100.0	(B)	100.0
Employed	254	24	229	95.1	(B)	95.0
Agriculture	131	10	121	49.1	(B)	50.2
Nonagricultural industries	123	15	108	46.1	(B)	44.8
Unemployed	13	1	12	4.9	(B)	5.0
Male	238	21	217	100.0	(B)	100.0
Labor force	174	16	158	73.4	(B)	72.8
Not in labor force	63	4	59	26.6	(B)	27.2
Labor force	174	16	158	100.0	(B)	100.0
Employed	167	16	152	96.0	(B)	96.2
Agriculture	106	9	97	60.9	(B)	61.4
Nonagricultural industries	61	6	55	35.1	(B)	34.8
Unemployed	7	1	6	4.0	(B)	3.8
Female	250	19	231	100.0	(B)	100.0
Labor force	91	8	83	36.4	(B)	35.8
Not in labor force	159	10	149	63.6	(B)	64.2
Labor force	91	8	83	100.0	(B)	100.0
Employed	86	8	77	94.5	(B)	92.8
Agriculture	24	-	24	26.4	(B)	28.9
Nonagricultural industries	61	8	53	67.0	(B)	63.9
Unemployed	6	-	6	6.6	(B)	7.2

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B Base less than 75,000.

Table 5. FARM RESIDENTS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE BY CLASS OF WORKER, RACE, AND SEX, APRIL 1973 AND 1970, AND BY REGIONS, APRIL 1973

(Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages)

Class of worker, race, and sex	Total		North and West	South	Percent distribution			
					Total		North and West	South
	1973	1970	1973	1973	1973	1970	1973	1973
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS								
Both sexes	2,249	2,333	1,537	712	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,355	1,411	932	423	60.2	60.5	60.7	59.3
Wage and salary workers	425	395	236	189	18.9	16.9	15.4	26.5
Unpaid family workers	469	526	368	101	20.9	22.5	24.0	14.2
Male	1,821	1,902	1,228	593	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,274	1,352	885	389	69.9	71.1	72.0	65.7
Wage and salary workers	364	349	203	161	20.0	18.3	16.5	27.2
Unpaid family workers	184	200	142	42	10.1	10.5	11.5	7.1
Female	428	431	308	120	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	82	59	48	34	19.1	13.7	15.6	28.1
Wage and salary workers	62	46	34	28	14.5	10.7	11.0	23.1
Unpaid family workers	285	326	226	59	66.4	75.6	73.4	48.8
WHITE								
Both sexes	2,119	2,158	1,528	591	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,318	1,358	930	388	62.2	62.9	60.9	65.5
Wage and salary workers	347	299	230	117	16.4	13.9	15.1	19.8
Unpaid family workers	454	501	367	87	21.4	23.2	24.0	14.7
Male	1,715	1,762	1,220	495	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,238	1,304	881	357	72.2	74.0	72.3	72.0
Wage and salary workers	300	271	197	103	17.5	15.4	16.2	20.8
Unpaid family workers	177	187	141	36	10.3	10.6	11.6	7.3
Female	404	396	308	96	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	80	54	48	31	19.8	13.6	15.9	32.3
Wage and salary workers	47	28	33	14	11.6	7.1	10.7	14.6
Unpaid family workers	277	314	226	51	68.6	79.3	73.4	53.1
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES								
Both sexes	131	175	10	121	100.0	100.0	(B)	100.0
Self-employed workers	38	53	4	34	29.0	30.3	(B)	28.1
Wage and salary workers	78	97	6	72	59.5	55.4	(B)	59.5
Unpaid family workers	15	25	-	15	11.5	14.3	(B)	12.4
Male	106	140	9	97	100.0	100.0	(B)	100.0
Self-employed workers	36	48	4	32	33.6	34.3	(B)	33.0
Wage and salary workers	64	79	6	58	59.8	56.4	(B)	59.8
Unpaid family workers	7	13	-	7	6.5	9.3	(B)	7.2
Female	24	35	-	24	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Self-employed workers	2	5	-	2	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Wage and salary workers	14	18	-	14	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unpaid family workers	8	12	-	8	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B Base less than 75,000.

Table 6. FARM RESIDENTS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER EMPLOYED IN NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, BY CLASS OF WORKER, RACE, AND SEX, FOR REGIONS: APRIL 1973

Numbers in thousands. Figures are April-centered annual averages

Class of worker, race, and sex	Total	North and West	South	Percent distribution		
				Total	North and West	South
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WORKERS						
Both sexes	2,121	1,292	829	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	158	90	68	7.4	7.0	8.2
Wages and salary workers	1,938	1,190	748	91.4	92.1	90.2
Unpaid family workers	25	12	13	1.2	0.9	1.6
Male	1,172	708	464	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	107	64	43	9.1	9.0	9.3
Wage and salary workers	1,060	643	417	90.5	90.8	90.1
Unpaid family workers	4	1	3	0.3	0.1	0.6
Female	950	584	366	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	51	26	25	5.4	4.5	6.8
Wage and salary workers	878	547	331	92.4	93.7	90.4
Unpaid family workers	21	11	10	2.2	1.9	2.7
WHITE						
Both sexes	1,999	1,277	721	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	153	89	64	7.7	7.0	8.9
Wage and salary workers	1,821	1,177	644	91.1	92.1	89.3
Unpaid family workers	25	12	13	1.3	0.9	1.8
Male	1,110	702	408	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	105	64	41	9.5	9.1	10.0
Wage and salary workers	1,001	637	364	90.2	90.7	89.2
Unpaid family workers	4	1	3	0.4	0.1	0.7
Female	888	575	313	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	48	25	23	5.4	4.3	7.3
Wage and salary workers	820	540	280	92.2	93.8	89.5
Unpaid family workers	21	11	10	2.4	1.9	3.2
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES						
Both sexes	123	15	108	100.0	(B)	100.0
Self-employed workers	5	2	4	4.1	(B)	3.7
Wage and salary workers	117	14	103	95.9	(B)	96.3
Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	-	(B)	-
Male	61	6	55	(B)	(B)	(B)
Self-employed workers	2	1	2	(B)	(B)	(B)
Wage and salary workers	59	6	53	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	(B)
Female	61	8	53	(B)	(B)	(B)
Self-employed workers	3	1	2	(B)	(B)	(B)
Wage and salary workers	58	8	50	(B)	(B)	(B)
Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	(B)

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B Base less than 75,000.